

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, 1st MAY, 1901.

THE STRANDED "SOBRAON."

LATER DETAILS.

As we stated in our Shipping Extra on the 27th ult., the following information had been telegraphed to the local office of the P. & O. S. N. Company:—

Foochow, Friday evening.

"Haashin proceeded Sobraon this morning. French cruiser goes this afternoon with Armit (3rd Officer Sobraon) aboard. Mails in good order."

The following is a summary received by telegraph from Shanghai of passengers and cargo on board the *Sobraon*:—

Passengers—17 Adults and 5 children (first saloon), 40 Adults and 13 children (second saloon).

Cargo—Treasure \$2,000 only, 818 bales fine silk, 51 bales waste silk, 250 tons strawbraid, 150 tons hides, 150 tons sundries.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. Ritchie requested the Telegraph Company to wire to Foochow to ascertain the state of the weather, and a reply came back to the effect that it was still calm. This news was reassuring, as, from the gusty wind and squally appearance of the sky here on Saturday morning, it was feared that a change might have set in, and that, too, from a quarter most inimical to the *Sobraon*.

The P. & O. Company on Sunday afternoon received two telegrams from Foochow to the effect that 17 passengers and 89 mail bags had been landed at Foochow from a junk. This is presumably the junk that was reported from Sharp Peak. Passengers and baggage, probably those landed on the island of Tung Yung, were also brought in by the steamer *Irene*.

The P. & O. Company intend paying the fares of passengers by the stranded steamer from Foochow to this port.

The Foochow agents of the P. & O. S. N. Company have arranged for the remainder of the stranded liner's passengers to come down to Hongkong either by the *Fooksang*, leaving on Monday, or by the *Anping Maru*, leaving to-day.

There is no definite news so far to hand regarding the steamer, but it is believed that no change has taken place in her position. Monday's advices from the scene of the accident stated that the weather was still calm, with a north-east breeze blowing. The glass was falling.

The report of Captain Goddard, who left on the *Ballaarat* on Saturday to survey and report on the position of the *Sobraon*, is now awaited. The *Ballaarat* was due to arrive at Tung Yung Island at five o'clock on Monday morning, and Captain Goddard has instructions to wire at once all that there is to report. This report, Mr. Ritchie courteously informed us, would be sent in for publication.

On enquiry at the local branch of the P. & O. S. N. Company yesterday morning, we were informed that there was nothing fresh to report with regard to the stranded liner or as to its position, and that no further telegrams had been received from the immediate scene of the accident. Captain Goddard's report was not yet to hand.

The German mail steamer *Prinzess Irene* passed Tung Yung Island on her way to this

port, but owing to the foggy and wet nature of the weather, those on board could make out only the masts and funnels of the unfortunate *Sobraon*.

The following is the passenger list of the *Sobraon* when she left Shanghai on the 23rd ult.:—

For London—Mr. J. Ferrier, Miss and Master Ferrier, Mrs. Southcott, Mrs. J. Hunt and infant, Mrs. Phipps and three children, Dr., Mrs., the Misses and Master Alf. ed Hogg, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Hogg and four children, Mrs. Horobin and three children, Mrs. Ogren and two children, Capt., Mrs. and Master Roope, Mrs. Sharman, Misses F. Tandberg, L. Seymour, M. and J. Black, Miss M. E. and Master E. G. Fische, Comdr. Drummond, R.N., Capt. H. W. Hogg, Messrs. J. W. S. Neeson, J. West, T. H. Macklin, V. F. Gibbs, N. B. C. Brock, A. A. Godwin, D. M. Robertson, C. McKendrick, H. W. Kenneth, W. McAuslan, J. Grant and M. Ingram and Master T. H. Warmster, For Marseilles—Messrs. W. B. Sloan, H. W. Frost, J. Nasmith and H. Emanuel. For Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Poliakov, Mrs. Grandelman, Messrs. G. H. May and Hiscock, and one Chinese assistant and Naval Details.

DEPUTATION TO H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

CANTONESE GRATITUDE FOR LAST YEAR'S ASSISTANCE.

An interesting ceremony, and one calculated to promote Anglo-Chinese good-feeling in South China, took place at Government House on Monday forenoon, when a deputation of Cantonese medical students of the Tientsin Medical College waited on H.E. the Governor to present an address expressing their gratitude to H.E. for the assistance rendered last year to the Cantonese at Tientsin. It will be remembered that H.E. guaranteed the cost of the passages south of Cantonese desirous of leaving Tientsin (where they were at least in as much danger from the Boxers as were the European residents), while the money was raised by subscription among the leading Chinese merchants here. The deputation on Monday was introduced by Mr. Ts'oi Yenk-Shan, and after they had been received by His Excellency presented the following address:—

Hongkong, 26th April.

YOUR EXCELLENCY.

We, the undersigned medical students of the Tientsin Medical College, do hereby desire to thank Your Excellency for the kind thoughts of us and our welfare during the troubles at Tientsin when we were placed in imminent danger.

Through your timely despatches and instructions to the British Officers in authority up the north, we were placed in comparative safety. Indeed, through our own safety we were in a position to render some help to the sufferers, both natives and Europeans. This is due to Your Excellency's endeavours, and not to anything we dare to boast of.

We humbly wish to place our gratitude on record and sincerely hope that Your Excellency will accept not only our own thanks but also that of our families and countrymen.

We have the honour to be, your Excellency, your Excellency's most obedient servants,

YAU KING-SHAM.
HSIAO CHI-NAU.
WOO WAI-U.
WONG MAN-TOO.
LAI SHUI-WING.
WOO CHI-FIN.
TSUE YING YANG.
KWAU KING SING.
WAU PING MAN.
TONG FUO-MAN.
TSO U HIM.
LUENG KING CHEONG.
WONG YUN SHIU.

To H. E.

Sir A. HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.,

Governor of Hongkong, etc., etc., etc.

His Excellency then replied as follows:—

Gentlemen,—I assure you that it gave me very great pleasure to be able to assist you and the Cantonese people who found themselves exposed to danger from the Boxer movement in the North, and I congratulate you on your escape from that sorely harassed portion of China. The misguided men who entered upon this anti-foreign movement must now see how wicked and foolish was an outbreak of hostilities that has already cost China hundreds of thousands of lives, and will cost her hundreds of millions of Taels. When you return to your homes you will be able to appreciate the blessings of peace, so happily preserved in the Southern provinces, and I hope the day is not far distant when you may be able to resume your medical work, for the future of China is in the hands of those young men who are now devoting themselves to scientific and economic studies. I am glad to learn from you that you have all been at one time students of Queen's College, as you give a most agreeable evidence of the usefulness of that institution. I thank you for your expression of good will, which I heartily reciprocate, not alone towards you, but towards the Chinese people, in whose welfare the King and the people of Great Britain have always taken a friendly interest. The deputation then withdrew.

THE VITRIOL OUTRAGE.

The hearing of the charge against George Allen was resumed on the 26th ult. before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy.

Yeung Kwan, fitter, employed at the Naval Yard, was the first witness examined. He said he was the younger brother of Yeung Kun, who is now undergoing a sentence of three years' imprisonment for complicity in the assault upon Mr. Reek. Witness deposed that he received a letter from his brother after the latter was sent to gaol—on 3rd April, he thought. After reading this letter witness went to see the defendant, at half past seven on the evening of the same day. Witness told the defendant that he (the latter) owed Yeung Kun \$80, and that the money was needed to support the convict's family. Witness asked for \$100, as he wanted to engage a lawyer. The defendant, on learning that he proposed to engage Mr. Robinson, advised him to engage Mr. Francis. The defendant then gave the witness \$100, for which the latter did not sign a receipt—not, in fact, being asked to do so. Mr. Hastings had no questions.

Mr. T. J. Wild, assistant Government analyst, detailed the results of his examination of the stains on the suit of clothing worn by Mr. Reek when the vitriol was thrown over

him. His evidence was similar to that given at the first hearing of the case.

No questions by Mr. Hastings.

Mr. J. Hays, solicitor and managing clerk in the firm of Johnson, Stokes, and Master, said he defended Yeung Kun at the Police Court on the charge of procuring Lo Tsoi to throw a corrosive fluid on Mr. Reek. Witness was also engaged when the case went to the Criminal Sessions. On the day previous to the Sessions, 17th April, he was in his room at the office, when the defendant was shown in. Witness asked him his name, and he replied that it was Allen. In answer to a question as to what he wanted, the defendant said—"I think you are acting on behalf of Yeung Kun?" Witness replied—"Yes." Defendant then asked if all fees had been paid, and was told that they had. He asked witness if he required any more money and was answered in the negative. He farther said that if any more money was required he would be willing to pay it. Witness asked—"Why are you so interested in the matter—an affair that concerns only a coolie?" The reply was—"I am interested in him; I have known him a long time." He continued—"Supposing you are successful in getting Yeung Kun off at the Sessions, would you expect any more money?" and was answered—"No; we do not take up cases 'on spec.'" "If you did want it," the defendant once more said, "I should be very pleased to pay it." Continuing, he asked—"The names of some Europeans have been mentioned, haven't they?" Witness said that was the case, and the defendant asked—"What are their names?" Information on this point, however, was refused, upon which the defendant asked—"Have you any means of making Yeung Kun hold his tongue?" Witness replied—"No, I cannot put my hand over his mouth and stop his speaking. I can only advise him as to what statements to make or not to make at his trial." Defendant asked witness to do what he could to keep the names of the Europeans in the background. He was assured that no names would be mentioned at all, unless in Yeung Kun's interests or in the interests of justice. "It would be rather hard," said the defendant, "if my name were brought up, after finding the money." No further conversation passed, and the defendant left the office.

In answer to Captain May, the witness said that forty minutes after he had gone he dictated the defendant's statements to a shorthand clerk and had them typewritten.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hastings:—

Have you the statement with you?—Yes. (Statement produced and perused by Mr. Hastings.)

You defended Yeung Kun all through, didn't you?—Yes.

Did he plead guilty at the commencement?—No.

When did he determine, or you advise him, to plead guilty?—On the afternoon of 17th April.

The day before the case came on at the Criminal Sessions?—Yes.

Had Yeung Kun made any statement at the Police Court in his defence?—No.

Now, before 17th April, had Yeung Kun, or anyone on his behalf, made a statement to the police?—No. He made a statement both to myself and to counsel, but it was kept secret.

When was the defendant arrested?—On the night of the 17th, I think.

Do you know who gave the information on which he was arrested?—Yes; I gave one statement—the one you have just looked through—to Mr. May.

I suppose you gave Yeung Kun's statement at the same time?—I did.

Was it in consequence of what Mr. May said at the interview that Yeung Kun pleaded guilty?—I advised him to plead guilty, but not on account of what Mr. May said.

Was Yeung Kun told by you or by anybody else that if he pleaded guilty he would get off with a lighter sentence?—Not by me, nor by anyone else, so far as I know.

You are aware of what the Chief Justice said at the Sessions—that if it was found on further investigation that Yeung Kun's statement regarding Europeans was well founded, the Governor would probably take his sentence into consideration?—Yes, I remember.

Had Yeung Kun been told anything to

that effect before he pleaded guilty?—Some statement was made, the purport of which was that if another man was at the bottom of it, he had better make a clean breast of it, so that if any person had instigated him it might be taken into consideration by the judge in his sentence. We told him also that he had nothing whatever to rely upon in that, as we could make him no promises.

In fact, you gave him to understand that he would get off with a lighter sentence if he disclosed something or other?—I advised him to speak the truth for his own sake.

Did Mr. May say he would get off more lightly?—No.

No further evidence was heard, and the case was adjourned until yesterday, 30th April, at 2.15 p.m., when the accused was committed for trial.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 25th April.

MURDER AND ROBBERY AT A LEADING COMPRADORE'S HOUSE.

A daring armed robbery and murder took place in the private residence of the compadore of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., in Po Wa Fong Street, Canton, on the 23rd inst. About 8 p.m. on that evening a gang of seven thieves armed with revolvers and knives broke into the house, drove the inmates, wives and concubines into one corner, and began to ransack the premises. The fourth son, Ng An Sang, who happened to be there, had a severe struggle with one of the thieves. The latter pulled out a revolver from underneath his jacket and shot him right through the heart. The robbers then took away whatever they could lay their hands upon, and made good their escape, no one daring to stop them. To-day I hear that two thieves have been arrested by the police of the Western Suburb. The compadore is reputed to be one of the rich men in Canton, for which reason the thieves singled him out for robbery.

COLLISION.

It is reported that the collision case between the *Sunchow* and *Hung Fei*, in which Leong Yon claims \$20,000 damages, is referred to the Commissioner of Customs for investigation.

Later.

A REBUFF FOR A WOULD-BE MONOPOLIST.

Lately a certain Yü Kwai Shün and others went up to the Viceroy's yamen and presented a petition offering to take a monopoly of the Imperial Maritime Customs duties. His Excellency Tao Nui vouchsafed him an interview, and after giving him a pretty severe reprimand, sent him away a wiser man.

SANDAKAN NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Sandakan, 16th April.

THE "MAU SANG" IN QUARANTINE.

The steamer *Mau Sang* arrived here on the 9th inst. with a case of small-pox amongst the deck passengers; as a result fourteen days' quarantine were declared, but this was afterwards reduced. The passengers were all taken to the Coolie Island, Bohalla, the sick man to the small-pox hospital, all cargo likely to be damaged by sulphur fumes was sealed up in one hold, and the balance of the cargo, including the ship from end to end, was thoroughly disinfected. The ship was then released, after some 4 or 5 days quarantine, and the isolated cargo was landed on the 18th inst., 14 days after leaving Hongkong. All things considered, the ship was very lucky to lose but the few days referred to.

The authority of the Justices of the Peace at Saigon has been extended over the neighbourhood of Cape St. James and the province of Baria.

On Tuesday H.E. the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., accompanied by his A.D.C. and Private Secretary, went to Macao to return the visit by H.E. Senator J. M. de S. Horta e Costa three months ago, on the occasion of the memorial service to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. His Excellency returned to Hongkong the same day.

THEATRE ROYAL.

"THE SECOND MRS. TANQUERAY."

No better proof of the drawing power of our present visitors at the Theatre Royal could have been given than in the attendance on Saturday night, the 27th ult., to witness *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*. The play is not new to Hongkong, but in spite of the extremely oppressive weather the house was as full as it could be. Among the audience were H.E. the Governor, with Lady Blake and suite. Mr. Pinero's four-act play is the most ambitious of the pieces put on by the Brough Company and, as those know who have seen it played by them in Hongkong before, tests the skill of the Company to the utmost. The first of the English "problem plays" (so-called), it is certainly not to be classed as a comedy. Its author calls it simply an "original play" and has his right to the title in the manner in which he handles the question of the rehabilitation of the *demi-mondaine*, a class over which it had hitherto been the habit of the English and most of the Continental dramatists to gush with ineffective and unreal sentimentalities. Mr. Pinero, if he did not succeed in making a great play, yet showed no fear of facing the truth, as far as he could see it. Naturally the interest is centred round the character of the woman, and by the addition of the previous wife's daughter Mr. Pinero obtains his plot. Mrs. Brough takes the part of Paula Tanqueray and so the burden of the play's success or failure fell on Saturday night on her shoulders. She sustained it admirably. In the first act indeed she was hardly at her best, but as soon as the more emotional part of the drama was reached she rose fully to the occasion and maintained a high level to the end. Owing to the wretched acoustic properties of our Theatre most of the last act was lost by a large section of the audience, but it will be easily understood that the performers are not to blame for this. Mr. Brough was, as ever, a well-nigh perfect exponent of his role. His acting will long be remembered in Hongkong and certainly not least in the part of Aubrey Tanqueray. Ellean was represented by Miss Noble, who played both charmingly and humanly—we say this because the "angelic" side of the character might easily be overdone. In the sympathetic part of Cayley Drummle Mr. Leslie Victor bore himself very well. Miss Thompson again sustained the character of a middle-aged lady, Mrs. Cortelyon, with success. Mr. Lovell we did not think suited by his part and he had no opportunity of distinguishing himself as he has in other plays in the Company's repertory. The remaining parts were in most capable hands. The staging and costumes were as admirable as ever.

The following is the full cast of characters:—
Aubrey Tanqueray ... Mr. Brough
Cayley Drummle ... Mr. Leslie Victor
Sir George Orreyed, Bart. ... Mr. P. Brough
Captain Hugh Ardale ... Mr. W. T. Lovell
Frank Misquith, Q.C., M.P. ... Mr. M. Majeroni
Gordon Jane, M.D. ... Mr. McIntyre
Morse ... Mr. Hards
Mrs. Cortelyon ... Miss Beesie Thompson
Ellean ... Miss Grace Noble
Lady Orreyed ... Miss Temple
Paula Tanqueray ... Mrs. Brough

LIQUID FUEL.

The adjourned discussion upon the paper read by Mr. John Lambert, the Superintending Engineer of the Cosmopolitan Dock, at the Engineer's Institute, a fortnight ago, took place on Saturday, the 27th ult., in the presence of a large and representative meeting of engineers.

Mr. Ramsey presided, and among those present, who took part in the discussion were Messrs Kirkwood, Murchie, Murphy, Leurs, Macpherson, Lennox, Stirling, Sopitt, Hawey, Pearson, and Turner.

The general tenor of the discussion was as to the advantages derived from the use of liquid fuel over that of coal as far as ocean-going steamers were concerned.

Mr. Cook, the president of the Institution, was unable to be present, and wrote a letter tendering an apology for his absence.

Mr. LENNOX, in a very interesting address, furnished statistics comparing the relative

efficiency of the two fuels, and in conclusion said he would hail with pleasure the substitution of oil for coal as lessening the duties of marine engineers.

Mr. LAMBERT having replied, the meeting concluded with the customary vote of thanks to Mr. John Lambert and to the Chairman.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The report of Mr. A. J. May, Acting Headmaster of Queen's College, is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

The total number on roll was 1,440, being nearly 100 more than last year; and this number could have been exceeded had the roll been large enough to have admitted of more entries being made, and the class-rooms of a more expansive nature. This shews that an entrance into this Institution is eagerly sought after, in spite of the fees being, in the higher part of the school, \$36 per annum, in addition to which each boy has to provide himself with all books used in the school, which in some classes means an extra expenditure of about \$10 on the part of each scholar in the upper classes. The average daily attendance was 990, as against 887 last year. The highest monthly attendance was reached in April, when there were 1,126 pupils in attendance. The highest average daily attendance was also in April, viz., 1,049. The largest number of boys present on one day was 1,079, on 25th July.

The revenue from fees was \$29,037, being an increase of \$1,792 on last year. The gross expenditure has been increased owing to the increase of salaries granted under C.O.D. 280 of 1899, and also by an increase of compensation on the same, and the adjustment of exchange in England; yet owing to the great increase in the average daily attendance the expense of each scholar has been decreased by \$1.28.

The results of the Oxford Local Examinations are as follow:—Of the 8 juniors 5 passed, one of whom was a Chinese. Of the 9 Preliminary Candidates only 2 passed, one of these being a Chinese.

During the year under review, great strides have been made in recreation and sports. A greater interest has been taken in sports generally by the Chinese, who have now got both football and cricket clubs of their own, and 2 or 3 Chinese boys are included in the College 1st Cricket Eleven.

Mr. Tanner is to be thanked for encouraging sea-bathing among the boys, and for starting a Club open to all who were willing to pay the fee, of which many availed themselves. The outcome of this was Aquatic Sports promoted by Mr. Ralphs, and held for the first time in the history of this school, and here again some of the Chinese shewed great proficiency.

In response to a general wish expressed by the non-Chinese students, Mr. Ralphs (having first consulted Sir John Carrington, Colonel of the Hongkong Volunteers, on the matter) undertook to raise a Cadet corps which, with some of the former students, numbered close upon 50. Drills were carried on, and in November the corps was inspected by Sir John Carrington, who spoke very favourably of the appearance and drill of the boys and stated that a scheme would be presented to the Government for sanction to attach the corps to the Volunteers. The decision is still awaited.

Another subject which I hope is under the consideration of the Government and which I trust ere long will be *un fait accompli*, is the building of a suitable Gymnasium.

Mr. May points out that throughout the past year the school has been seriously understaffed, owing to sickness among the masters and the lack of relief from England in the shape of a successor to Mr. Machell.

The report of Messrs. C. Clementi and S. B. C. Ross, who examined the Upper School, is appended to Mr. May's report.

We have received a copy of an interesting pamphlet on Chinese Jurisprudence, being an address delivered by H.E. Wu Ting-fang, Chinese Minister at Washington, before the New York State Bar Association on the 15th January. H.E. Wu gives a very lucid exposition on the subject.

HONGKONG POST OFFICE.

The report of Mr. E. Cornwall Lewis, Acting Postmaster General, for the year 1900, is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

Departmental Changes.—The Postmaster General obtained twelve months' leave of absence and left for England on the 6th March. The Assistant Postmaster General was appointed to act during his absence, and the duties of the Assistant Postmaster General were divided between the Accountant and the Superintendent of the money order office.

On the 1st January, the six Armenian Clerks, referred to in last year's Report as having been engaged, entered upon their duties. I regret to say, however, that after two or three months' experience of Post Office work, to which they were quite new, they all, more or less became dissatisfied, not only with the hard work and long hours, but also with the salaries which they received, and which they considered were inadequate, owing to the fact that they were strangers to Hongkong. By the end of the year four had severed their connection with the Office. Including the above six Clerks, 23 new appointments were made during the year, and 12 Clerks resigned. With the exception of three—one with 11 years' service and two with three years—none of those who resigned had completed even a year's service.

In the month of May, Mr. F. J. Machado, the Postmaster at Shanghai for the long period of 23 years, retired on a pension, which he fully deserved after his lengthened and faithful service of 43 years in the Department. He was succeeded by Mr. W. J. Solly, the Senior Clerk of the General Post Office, Hongkong, who in his turn was succeeded by Mr. G. G. Burnett, transferred from the Sanitary Board. There were numerous changes at Shanghai owing to resignations, and with the advent of a new Postmaster, the long needed additional assistance was pressed for, and I am pleased to say that three extra men were granted by the Government.

International and Local Correspondence.—The table shows an increase under each head in both classes of mails dealt with. Attention is drawn to the large number of bags dealt with, viz., 74,844, an increase of over ten thousand on the total of the previous year.

Postage Stamps.—From monthly sales of stamps at Hongkong the total amount received was \$217,612.24, an increase of \$820.79 on that of the previous year. The sales of stamps at the British Post Office at Shanghai and at the several British Postal Agencies, amounting together to the sum of \$76,220.55.

Parcel Post.—The Parcel Post transactions, again this year show an increase on that of the previous year. The total number of parcels handled in 1900 being 54,396 (of which 6,315 were insured) against 49,354 (of which 6,217 were insured).

Revenue and Expenditure.—The total revenue received in 1900 was \$325,603.38, exceeding that of 1899 by \$7,693.97, and the total expenditure was \$235,263.08, less by \$2,639.68 than that of 1899. The net balance to credit of the Hongkong Post Office on the year's transactions amounted to the large sum of \$90,340.25.

Money Orders.—The total amount of orders issued and paid in Hongkong and Shanghai was \$1,102,140.62, which was an increase on that of the previous year of \$468,742.90. The increase in the number of Indian regiments stationed at Hongkong will amount for the larger number and amount of Indian orders drawn in 1900. The sales of Imperial and local postal notes similarly exceeded the sales of 1899. The total of the former amounting to £6,149 17s. 2d. and the latter to \$6,491.50. The increased sale of Imperial Postal notes was largely due to such being applied for to a greater extent by the Naval men on this station, particularly as their number had of late been so much added to by the additional ships sent out to augment the China fleet.

General.—Owing to the troubles in North China, and the consequent despatch there of British troops, including a large number of Indian Regiments, it can well be understood that the work of this Department was considerably added to. The Indian Postal Administration, however, sent out along with the

troops a fully manned and equipped Field Post Office Establishment. After consultation with me, the Chief Superintendent, with my consent, arranged to open a Base Post Office in Hongkong, and to this Office everything received here for the China Field Force was to be sent at once to be dealt with.

I regret to state that the Convention for Partial Postal Union between this Colony and China which was sent forward for execution was not completed, owing to the unfortunate troubles in China breaking out about the same time. It appears very much as if this Convention will be hung up indefinitely. One of the Articles of the Convention would have done away with an anomaly, which certainly allowed the Chinese Imperial Post Office an advantage over the British Postal Agencies in China. It was this; The Hongkong rate on letters is for all places in China (exclusive of Canton and Macao) 5 cents for each half ounce whereas the Chinese rate is 2 cents for each quarter of an ounce or 4 cents per half ounce. I certainly think that this anomaly should cease without delay.

LOCAL EXAMINATION HUMOUR.

From the report on the Upper School at Queen's College by Messrs. C. Clementi and S. B. C. Ross we take the following examples of unconscious humour as exhibited by some of the pupils at the recent examination:—

Three forms offered "General Intelligence" as a subject for examination; but, say the examiners, the intelligence displayed was not general. Samples of it are these:—"The Zebra is a wild animal it is something like a sheep. It will devour men, women or cats, etc." "A kangaroo is a tame animal and is something like a boy. It is not a wild animal. It cannot walk or talk." "A kangaroo is a little animal like a cat. They like death. We often see them in topics." "King of birds means a kangaroo." "A kangaroo is like a rat with a hole in its stomach." "Treaty ports mean rugby, swimming, racing, cricket, rounders, aiming." "England's colonies consist Duke, Earl, Baron, etc., and also Bishops." "Sir Joshua Reynolds was the leader of the Jews after Moses' death." "Professor Pasteur famous for training horses at a Circus." "Alexander the Great King of England in the 9th century." "Alexander the Great, Roman Emperor, famous for building ships." "James Watt is famous for translation of the Bible."

The subject for dictation was Fuller's definition of the true gentleman as personified in Sir Francis Drake. One ingenious pupil rendered the opening words thus:—"The quaint old bullock sums up in a few words the character of the true gentleman in the describing that of a great animal Sir Francis Drake." History, we are told, was very weak. For example—"Acre was a town in Jerusalem it was taken by the French and made him king 88 years"; "Cromwell was a statement in England"; "Mayflower was denoted the Plantagenet Kings of the Crown"; "The Bank of England are many manufacture towns and a great number of sea port and also very rough." Ignorance of history adds to the confusion—"The way how Lady Jane Grey came to the throne was that she married, the Dauphin (Philip II); "Iron-sides is a brief and generous nobleman"; "Magna Charta was a great charta was a famous outlaw man who lived in the Sherwood Forest. He robbed the rich but help the poor"; "Act of Security was used to make some matter secure"; "Pilgrimage of Grace was a book written by John Bunyan during his confinement in Bedford jail." Ignorance of the elements of geography leads to such statements as "India on the continent of Europe has been subject to England"; "Bank of England has beautiful mountain ranges high peaks." A boy asked to give the provisions of the Treaty of Union says—"Tea was brought to England by the Dutch from China; tobacco and potatoes was brought to England by Drake."

Some of the replies to grammatical questions are worth recording. The feminine of "deer" is variously given as swine, antelope, stag, deeress and heifer; of "marquis" as marquicheas, marquiness, mergius, marquess, and marquii; of "peacock" as weathercock and henpeacock; of "fox" as foxess, bitch and victim. The masculine of "bitch" appears as wizard.

tib, buck, fox, wretch, witzer, show, tom and tom-bitch; of "hen" as beak and cork; of "mare" as maress, scullion, dota, filly, ewe, hare, staline, hiefer, ballien, ram, stallon; and of "sow" as sow-pig, bore-pig, sower, big, swine, bor, pook, sore, bull, belle, and horse. The plural of "formula" is given as formulix, formulae, formulii, formulous, formule, formules, formulx, formulis, formulee, formuli, formulars and formulaes; of "dictum" as dictumoes, diciumes, dictia, dictans, data, dictumess, dictaa, dictumaa, dictor, dictumies. "Concord" is defined to be "that which does not depend upon anything else." The comparative and superlative degrees of "ill" are given as "sick," "sickness."

Few of the boys, say the examiners, knew the English equivalent for the Chinese title of the Registrar General. Here are a few renderings:—Lord of Wa Mang, Your Registresous General, Your Honour Colonel General, Office of the Pritty, Dear Restoni General, The Benefactor, Colonel Registerer, The Governman, &c.

DEATH OF MR. P. G. VON MOLLENDORFF.

Death claimed one of the most prominent foreign residents in China on the 20th ult., when Mr. P. G. von Mollendorff died suddenly at Ningpo. Mr. von Mollendorff's friends had known for some considerable time that he was suffering from heart disease, but the end was not looked for with so little warning as that with which it ultimately arrived; and the sad news will be received with a pang of surprise and regret, not only throughout the Far East, wherever a foreign community exists, however small, but also in Europe, in many of whose capitals the story of the deceased's romantic Oriental career was familiar, and his profound erudition and single-minded, upright character, were honoured and appreciated. Mr. von Mollendorff's connection with the Far East began nearly thirty years ago, when he and his brother, Mr. O. von Mollendorff, joined the German diplomatic service, and received appointments as Student Interpreters in the German Legation, Peking. Some years later we find the deceased a member of the Indoor Staff of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, and in the early eighties he was playing a distinguished part on the tragic stage of politics in Corea, to the Customs service of which country he had been detached by Sir Robert Hart. The late Mr. von Mollendorff's career in Corea was indeed a remarkable one. He successively occupied the post of Chief of the Customs service, and Prime Minister to the King (his present Imperial Majesty being then content with the kingly dignity); and it was in the latter capacity that Mr. von Mollendorff attended that memorable banquet of December 4th, 1884, in the Royal Palace at Seoul, which was brought to such a ghastly termination by the assassins hired by the Dai Wan-kun, who invaded the Palace in the midst of the feasting and put most of the assembled Ministers to the sword. On that terrible occasion Mr. von Mollendorff, though wounded himself, succeeded in rescuing the Queen's kinsman, Prince Min Yon-yik, whom he carried out of the bloody banquet-hall and conveyed to a place of safety. Shortly afterwards Mr. von Mollendorff returned to China, receiving a high Customs appointment in Tientsin, during his occupancy of which he was invited by Chang-yao, Futai of Shantung, to go to Tsinanfu as Interpreter, an offer which Mr. von Mollendorff accepted; but, owing to a series of intrigues in high places the appointment was subsequently cancelled. After a considerable sojourn in Tientsin Mr. von Mollendorff came down to Shanghai and took charge of the Statistical Department of the I.M. Customs, a post which he held until he was gazetted Commissioner at Ningpo, where he remained in charge until the time of his lamented death. During his long career in the Customs service the impartiality and unwavering sense of justice which he brought to the discharge of his high duties won for him an honoured place in the esteem of his subordinates in the service, and the public with whom he was brought officially in contact, while his immense capacity for work, the unique facility

with which he mastered the most difficult situations, and above all, the uncompromising independence of his character, secured to him the respect of the Chinese Government and the confidence of the Inspector-General. The Government testified some years ago to the esteem in which the deceased gentleman was held in Peking, by creating him a Mandarin (Civil Rank) of the Fourth class.

The late Mr. von Mollendorff was not only a distinguished Chinese scholar, but was equally familiar with many others of the languages of the Far East. Some years ago he worked out and published a Manchu grammar; he was also the author of several handbooks of Chinese in German, and his knowledge of Korean and Japanese was of a depth to which Westerners seldom attain. Mr. von Mollendorff, indeed, kept up his connection with and interest in Corea, in various ways, till the very last moment, and ever since that terrible banquet in 1884, already alluded to, he remained the firm friend of the distinguished Korean exile whose life he saved on that occasion, Prince Min Yon-yik. While holding office in Shanghai, the late Mr. von Mollendorff was for a couple of years the distinguished President of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. His attainments in philology were of a most profound nature, and his loss will be severely felt not only by scholars in China, but throughout the world. He leaves a widow and several very talented daughters, with whom the sincerest sympathy is felt, to mourn his loss.—*Mercury*.

ABOLITION OF LOTTERIES IN SHANGHAI.

The lottery nuisance may be considered to be finally abated, says the *N.C. Daily News*. It was feared that there might be one or more of these institutions, claiming to be working under the authority of the provincial government, which the Mixed Court magistrate would be unwilling to interfere with. But our contemporary is glad to announce that this fear was groundless, and a notice has been posted in the Settlements, issued by the Mixed Court magistrate under date the 18th inst., in which no distinction is made, but it is clearly stated that "all persons dealing in lotteries must discontinue the sale of tickets at once." The following is a rough translation of the proclamation in question:—

"Notice is hereby given that a dispatch has been received from H. E. Yuan Taotai stating that he has received a communication from the Senior Consul saying that owing to lotteries not being a proper kind of business the Consular Body has requested the Municipal Council to withdraw the licenses issued to lottery dealers. The Council, having complied with this request, has now taken steps to prohibit the continuation of the sale of all tickets in the Settlement. The Consuls have now decided that if any of their nationals be hereafter found infringing this order, they will be fined or punished, and they have requested H. E. to instruct the Mixed Court Magistrate to comply with their decision. The Taotai will reply to the above communication, and in the meanwhile instructs the Magistrate to act in conformity with the decision of the Consular Body. "In compliance with the above order this proclamation is issued and the public is hereby notified that all persons dealing in lotteries must discontinue the sale of tickets at once. Any one hereafter found acting contrarily to this order will be dealt with without leniency. Let all obey this proclamation."

The *N.C. Daily News* concludes by heartily congratulating the Council on the success of their well-maintained efforts to rid the Settlement of this undoubted pest.

M. Dejean de la Batie, formerly French Consul at Mengtsu, has been appointed Consul at Honolulu.

A Paris telegram of the 21st ult. refers to British, American, and the German official despatches to the effect that in the conflagration of the Imperial Palace at Peking the most effective aid was furnished by the French under command of Colonel Marchand. Count von Bülow has thanked the French Government for the devotion displayed by Colonel Marchand and the soldiers under him.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The U. S. gunboat *Isla de Luzon* returned from Canton on the 26th ult.

The transports *Canning* and *Umta* will arrive here during this month to convey the detailed troops to India.

The transport *Clavering* will, according to present arrangements, pick up the pom-poms at Shanghai on her journey northward, and take them to Taku.

Orders have been received in Hongkong placing the Field Controller's Office, which is now encamped at Scandal Point, on the transportation list for Tientsin.

General Paus, a notorious insurgent chief in the Philippines, has surrendered to the United States authorities. He has been engaged lately in an extended tour through China.

Arrangements have been made by the military authorities to transport the Bikanir troops back to India, and they will leave Taku by an early B. I. boat, which will run from Calcutta direct.

The 15th Southern Division, R.A., will not proceed home during the present trooping season. They are under orders to go to Rorkee, India, and will, as we have stated, leave Kowloon for Calcutta as soon as a transport is available.

The 5th of this month is the date of the King of Siam's departure for Java. The King will travel by the royal yacht, accompanied by the *Makut Rajakumar*, the *Sugrib* and the *Chamroen*. The visit will probably extend to about a month and a half.

It is considered in Government circles at St. Petersburg that the present influence of Russia in Mongolia tends to make it a suitable moment for the establishment of a Russian Consulate in Kobdo. The same opportunity could be used for the starting of six branches of the Russian Chinese Bank in different towns of Mongolia, with the usual agencies of the Finance Ministry attached thereto.

Mr. Holt L. Hallett complains of the dilatoriness in issuing Consular Reports. Recently he enquired for the latest consular trade reports of Shanghai and Chungking, and learnt that none had been published since July, 1899. On 14th March he enquired for the latest Foreign Office report on the trade of China, and was informed that the latest was for the year 1896, which was published in 1898.

An *Asahi* telegram states that when the movements of the Russian Squadron in connection with the demand for Chinkaiwan ceased, about 15 marines were left in Masampo, and these men are still there. Mr. Kato, Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, has reminded the Russian Minister to Tokyo that the stationing of these men there is a violation of treaty pledges, and it is understood that they will be withdrawn shortly.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty: Lieutenants A. P. Solflect to *Tamar*, and D. M. Hamilton to *President*, additional as flag lieutenant to Vice-Admiral Sir C. A. G. Bridge, Commander-in-Chief on China Station, to date 10th April. Fleet Engineer W. H. Skinner to the *Talbot*, to date 10th April. Staff Surgeon.—T. Austen to the *Talbot*, to date 10th April. Surgeon.—J. A. Forrest, to the *Talbot*.

Some philanthropic Jews of Shanghai, interested in the remnant of a Jewish community at Kaifengfu, Honan, at last succeeded in bringing a member of the Honan community to Shanghai in order that they might learn the real condition of their affairs. The man who came is, however, said to be "indistinguishable from a heathen." He was so afraid to come that a native Christian named Chu hai to accompany him to comfort him on the way.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 20th April:—After a whole week of depression, of damp heat, of rain and thunderstorm, a fresh northerly wind this morning brought us a return of normal spring weather.—We do not hear much about tea prospects, excepting that the value of treasure, opium and lead so far sent up-country is only about half of that transmitted at the same date last year.—The Bishop of Victoria arrived per steamer *Thales* from Hongkong this morning.—We learn that the newly appointed Tartar General is due to-morrow per steamer *Hagelin* from Shanghai. H.E. Ching-hing was lately Provincial Treasurer in Honan.